



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 336***

***February Session, 2002***

***AN ACT CONCERNING STAFF SHORTAGES FOR SERVICES TO  
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) (a) For purposes of this  
2       section, "children with special health care needs" means children who  
3       have or are at a high risk for chronic physical, developmental,  
4       behavioral or emotional conditions.

5       (b) The Department of Public Health shall develop and maintain,  
6       within available appropriations, a children's home health care staffing  
7       pool that includes registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified  
8       nurse's aides, respiratory therapists and other health care workers that  
9       are available to provide shift care in the home for children with special  
10      health care needs. The department shall develop referral procedures  
11      for purposes of the pool.

12      (c) The department shall require all licensed home health care  
13      agencies to report on a regular basis on staff availability and  
14      uncovered home health care shifts for children with special health care  
15      needs. The department shall also request private duty placement  
16      agencies to report such information on a regular basis.

17      (d) The department, in conjunction with home health care agencies,  
18      shall develop a basic pediatric staff credentialing process that may  
19      include preparedness to manage different levels of care required by

20 children with special health care needs.

21 (e) The department shall work with the special needs hospitals in  
22 the state, including Yale New Haven Hospital, Connecticut Children's  
23 Hospital, New Britain Hospital for Special Needs and John Dempsey  
24 Hospital, to develop hospital-based in-service training for staff  
25 involved in the care of children with special health care needs.

26 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before January 1, 2003, the  
27 Commissioners of Public Health, Social Services and Mental  
28 Retardation shall jointly report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the  
29 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General  
30 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and  
31 social services and the select committee of the General Assembly  
32 having cognizance of matters relating to children on the coordination  
33 and delivery of care for children with special health care needs.

34 (b) The report shall include, but not be limited to: (1) The number of  
35 children with special health care needs who remain in institutional  
36 settings due to placement difficulties related to inadequate  
37 community-based services; (2) information on the ease of access by  
38 families to programs across agencies; (3) interagency-pooled funding  
39 options to provide services to children with complex, multiple health  
40 care needs; (4) coordination of state-based services with private  
41 insurers; (5) web-based linkages for state programs for physical health,  
42 behavioral health, developmental services and respite services; (6)  
43 identification of a lead case management entity and uniform case  
44 management standards for services for such children; (7) an evaluation  
45 of programs that deliver care to such children; (8) models used in other  
46 states to meet the service and care management needs of such children;  
47 and (9) an analysis of the feasibility, including cost, of establishing a  
48 safe home to provide group care for children with special health care  
49 needs.

50 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Department of Social services shall  
51 establish, within available appropriations, a limited personal care

52 attendant pilot program for children with special health care needs.  
 53 The pilot program shall operate in three geographic areas of the state.

54 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The sum of one hundred twenty  
 55 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Public Health,  
 56 from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, for the  
 57 children's home health care staffing pool pursuant to subsection (b) of  
 58 section 1 of this act.

59 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
 60 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Public Health, from the  
 61 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, for the research  
 62 necessary for the report pursuant to section 2 of this act.

63 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
 64 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the  
 65 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, for the pilot  
 66 program pursuant to section 3 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2002</i>

**KID****Joint Favorable Subst. C/R****PH**